



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

MAR 21 2000

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MAR 23

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

Mr. Eric S. Johnson
1111 Maxwell Ave., #211
Boulder, CO 80304

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in response to your letter dated February 28, 2000, concerning the use of recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) in dairy cows.

Thank you for sharing your concerns on this issue. The use of drugs in livestock and poultry is strictly regulated. Before any drug intended for use in animals is approved, it must undergo extensive chemical and toxicological testing which must demonstrate that the food from these animals is safe for human consumption.

Bovine somatotropin (bST) was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1993. The recombinant, or genetically engineered form of bST (rBST) is virtually identical to a cow's natural somatotropin, a hormone produced in its own pituitary gland that stimulates milk production. Since bST is a protein-based hormone, rBST is broken down during digestion, which makes it biologically inactive and incapable of having any effect in humans or animals. Over 120 studies were reviewed by FDA scientists that examined the safety of milk and meat from dairy cows treated with rBST. They concluded that there was no increased health risk to consumers.

I am enclosing materials that provide further information concerning this matter. In addition, I am forwarding your letter to Dockets Management Branch for inclusion in Docket Number 98P-1194 -- Withdrawal of NADA Approval for Posilac -- rBGH. Please visit our Internet Home Page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm>.

Sincerely yours,

Karen A. Kandra
Karen A. Kandra
Consumer Safety Officer
Center for Veterinary Medicine

Enclosures

98P-1194

C 772 HNS

February 28, 2000

Docket No: 98P-1194
Commissioner Jane Henney
Food & Drug Administration
5360 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

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Dear Commissioner Henney:

Genetically engineered bovine growth hormone is a dangerous hormone that should not be allowed on the market, and is not allowed in other countries. It's clear that the FDA did a less than adequate job of assessing the risks of this hormone, as revealed recently in information released by Health Canada. Why did the FDA not investigate the findings that feeding rBGH to male rats led to thyroid cysts?

And when is the FDA going to take a serious look at IGF-1, severe animal health problems, and the resistance to antibiotics that develops with their overuse (as is done in stressed rBGH-fed dairy herds)?

Please write back and let me know.

Sincerely,

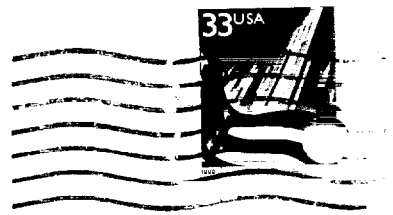


Eric S. Johnson
1111 Maxwell Ave. #211
Boulder, CO 80304

P.S. Frankly, you people are so cozy with the industry that you appear to be corrupt.

00-1642

E Johnson
1111 Maxwell #211
Boulder CO 80304



Docket No. 98P-1194
Commissioner Jane Henney
FDA
5360 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville MD 20852

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